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Cuba Crisis Russ Victory, Nikita Says in Interview

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev says in a tape-recorded interview that he feels the 1962 Cuban missile crisis was a victory for the Soviet Union over the United States.

In the recording acquired by the National Broadcasting Co., Khrushchev reasons that he sent the rockets to Cuba to forestall an American attack against that country and, since there was no attack, the strategy was successful.

The interview, believed to be the first available in the West since Khrushchev was deposed in October 1964, together with silent color film showing the ex-premier in retirement, will be broadcast by NBC July 11.

PORTIONS OF THE tape were released last night by the network which said it had obtained the tape and film from "private sources" inside the Soviet Union and other countries.

William R. McAndrew, NBC News president, said the interviews were conducted over a period of months—the last one in March—and that so far as he knew the Soviet government was not aware they had taken place.

On the tape, Khrushchev's voice is heard in Russian while an interpreter translates his remarks into English. The interviews were made at the ex-premier's country home near Moscow, NBC said.

DISCUSSING THE decision to dispatch missiles to Cuba, Khrushchev said: "Perhaps we shouldn't have done it, but if rockets had not been installed, would there be a Cuba now?"

"No, it would have been wiped out and, if that's true, it means that our transportation of rockets was justified. It cost us money, but we didn't lose a single man."

President John F. Kennedy ordered a naval and air quarantine on the shipment of offensive military equipment to Cuba after he learned the missiles existed. He and Khrushchev agreed on a formula to end the crisis on Oct. 28, 1962, six days after the blockade began.

"WHAT WAS THE American aim?" asked the ex-premier on the tape. "They aimed to liquidate socialist Cuba. The invasion by the Cuban emigres was part of the American plan. Our aim was to preserve Cuba and Cuba still exists."

At another point he quoted Chairman Mao Tse-tung as saying during a 1959 Peking meeting: "Comrade Khrushchev, you have only to provoke the Americans to military action and I will give you as many people as you wish—100 divisions, 200 divisions, 1,000."

"I explained to Mao," he continued, "that with contemporary techniques his divisions meant nothing because one or two rockets would be enough to turn all the divisions into dust. He disagreed, obviously regarding me as a coward."